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*Reports
coverage*

*Reports
for 2001*

Deputy Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

14 December 1981

Associate Deputy Director
for Science & Technology
Room 6E45 Hqs.

STAT

(14 Dec 81)

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4 December 1981

FBIS COVERAGE OF POLISH SITUATION

FBIS coverage of Polish radio broadcasts and press agency transmissions is being conducted by the BBC which is using 6 Polish monitors in Caversham, England, working round-the-clock (this can be increased to 12) and 2 monitors in Berlin. The Berlin monitors are listening to the audio of Warsaw television. The FBIS Austrian Bureau, which has three Polish monitors, began covering Warsaw Radio's medium-wave broadcasts on 13 December but discontinued this coverage when it was seen to be duplicative of London's coverage.

On 13 December Poland's Radio and Television Committee centralized all broadcasting in a decree ruling that henceforth there would be only one 24-hour central radio program and one central television program. All other national and regional radio and television programs were banned. Subsequent monitoring has confirmed that this ban is being observed. Radio Warsaw's domestic "first program" is monitorable, but other transmissions (such as the "second" and "third" programs) normally monitorable are not on the air, nor are the regional stations which are normally monitorable. Warsaw Radio's international broadcasts are also off the air. The Polish news agency PAP continues transmitting in both English and Polish, though PAP's maritime press agency has not been on the air since the 12th.

As of 14 December, Warsaw Radio appeared to be settling into a regular broadcast pattern. News bulletins lasting 15-30 minutes are broadcast hourly, though carrying little news on Poland other than the rebroadcast of the various decrees, statements, and communiques issued by the military council. Some sports and foreign news has been broadcast on the 14th. Most broadcast time between the news programs is taken up with the playing of classical music.

The FBIS Wire Service is carrying notes prepared by the Analysis Group, such as a note carried Friday night which pointed out that a sharply-worded TASS item might be the "opening shot in a new Soviet campaign to force Polish authorities to crack down on Solidarity." AG Wire notes on 14 December are providing status reports on the curtailment of Polish media output and assessing Moscow's reaction to Polish events.

The FBIS Production Group has six language officers operating in Polish. Two of these linguists are on standby for TDY, prepared to augment field coverage as necessary. Two German linguists are also on standby for duty at the BBC Monitoring Service where they could release German/Polish monitors for Polish coverage. A total of 235 central and provincial newspapers, including 19 provincial papers and both central and regional Solidarity publications, are normally covered by Production Group; the effect of the present situation on deliveries remains to be seen. During the last half of FY 1981 Production Group increased its coverage of political, economic, and military material from Polish media sources by 40% over the first half of FY 1981.

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